

# NEW DRAINAGE PROJECT FORMED; PHOENIX HAS TROUBLES LIKE REST

It will be noted with no small satisfaction throughout the southwest that the farmers of the Salt River valley and the citizens of Phoenix have joined hands figuratively and have voted in favor of creating a drainage project contemplating the expenditure of \$600,000 to eliminate a flood menace about which little has been said heretofore and that little quite guardedly because the people most concerned were anxious that no undue alarm concerning the 200,000 acres of the fertile Salt River valley become widespread. Now that it is official, the community has agreed to go ahead with a drainage plan recommended by engineers of ability, it is no doubt permissible to say that damage similar to that which the valleys adjacent to El Paso have suffered also menaced the people of the Salt River valley.

There are a few small areas in the valley where the water has come so near the surface as to drive up what is called "black alkali" and until drainage can be secured, the land will be practically worthless. It is not growing crops now. There are farms where the water level a few years ago was 25 feet or more below the surface. The level is now 13 feet below the surface, with every indication that the water table would continue rising unless remedial measures were taken. There was water in cellars of one or two business establishments in Phoenix in May of this year. The fact awakened the people of the city to the need for action.

But when the drainage plan was first discussed, there was some opposition because many residents of the valley did not comprehend the peril. Curiously enough, not all the valley was menaced. Water was near the surface in only a few places. Others who seemed to be in no danger of ruined land were hesitant about putting on their acres a financial burden over and above the usual growing crops. The payment of the cost of the Roosevelt project. Again, curiously, the land which was damaged by rising water was higher than land which was not affected at all.

However, if all opposition was not removed, it was at least quieted, for in the election Wednesday of last week, those favoring establishing the drainage project prevailed. The margin was narrow. In fact, owing partly to inclement weather and partly to the universal apathy of American voters toward any sort of bonding proposal, very few ballots were cast. They were sufficient for the purpose.

The Salt River valley will not undertake drainage by the same method as is being used in the upper valley here—the ditch method which is already proving successful. The Arizonans have agreed to establish a system of pumping plants at various places in the valley, some of them being in Phoenix itself. The ditch idea was abandoned because it would cause the removal of the water beyond the irrigation project where it could be used to good advantage for irrigation. By the sinking of wells and the installation of pumping plants, it is intended to remove the water from underground and make it available for use on the surface in places where it is needed. Many an acre now without water is to receive a supply by means of these wells. Phoenix has less water than is believed desirable. The city will be bonded for \$100,000, the money to be used in sinking a well and installing a big pumping plant, the water thus brought up to be added to the city's supply. As for the residents outside the city, they have voted to assess themselves \$2.70 an acre to raise \$500,000 to purchase and install pumps where they may be determined by scientific investigation to be needed. The water drained away from underground and raised to the surface, will be added to the irrigation supply.

A good start has been made. If the project is intelligently carried through there is no danger of failure. It has been demonstrated over and over again that drainage will prevent good land from being flooded and will restore land ruined by flooding. El Pasoans who have been watching things up the valley know that it is being proved before their own eyes. It has also been proved near Tempe, Arizona. In the case of unirrigated lands, it has been proved over and over again in the marshy lands in the middle west and of the south in sections where every farm is tiled and drained.

Danger of flooding and the consequent necessity of drainage were not thought of when these reclamation projects were undertaken. At least, the average person did not think of them and they were not discussed. Engineers realized what was coming, they did not take the public into their confidence. And yet it is said, whether quite accurately or not, that the drainage problem confronts land owners in every reclamation project. If that is true, all had better make preparations for drainage and when new projects are constructed, it should be with the thought of drainage in mind. Preventive measures could be taken before land is put under cultivation at less expense and with less actual loss than after.

Arizona farmers have no reason to be uneasy, now that

they are starting to work on the drainage project, for the valley will be greatly benefited. It will be as productive as ever and the small areas which have been affected will be restored to their normal value.

The \$2.70 an acre is a very small tax to put on the land for such a worthy purpose. It will be money well spent, if it is wisely spent. The sale of water, year after year, lifted by the pumping plants ought to more than meet the expense of operating the plants. It ought to show a handsome profit, making back to the farmers all they invested and much more to put into the treasury of the water users' association.

## Hurry Along the Relief Fund.

ANNOUNCEMENT that the government will make available the sum of \$6,000,000 for the relief of the drought stricken regions of Texas and New Mexico is the first real word of encouragement those long suffering people have had. According to the advice, the use of the money is not to be limited to the purchase of seed or the harvesting of crops. It is not intended as a means of stimulating immediate production in regions where immediate production is out of the question. It is intended as an actual relief to be used for whatever the farmer or the stockman most needs; food for his family and feed for his stock. It is to enable him to stay on the land, although many of his neighbors have already been compelled to move away.

The southwest as a whole has little real comprehension of what some sections have undergone in the past three years. There are great areas where not a rain worth mention has fallen in three years and where no relief by irrigation is available. There is one district where the only rain in three years fell last spring. It was just sufficient to start the grass through the ground; insufficient to bring it up to make feed for starving cattle; insufficient to bring up crops of foodstuffs on the meager acres which had been planted. Now that same region is bare and brown. Even the desert growth, insured to long periods without moisture, is dead. There are places where crops have been planted season after season, several times each season—planted in high hope or in desperate hope—and have come through the ground only to wither while their owners experienced actual want of food. El Pasoans have little idea how many farms have been abandoned in parts of West Texas. And some of those who remained on their land considered themselves unlucky because they had no means of leaving.

There are stock ranges where not one green thing can be seen for miles around. Starving cattle search in vain for more than the veriest morsels of forage. And then they die of starvation and thirst unless their owners can ship them elsewhere.

Rains have fallen throughout the southwest recently but it is one of the vagaries of nature that some of the drought stricken sections have had almost no rainfall, while in some irrigated sections with an abundant water supply, there have been cloudbursts which caused heavy damage.

If the Washington administration cares for a suggestion it is this: Hurry that money through to the farmers and stockmen of the drought areas just as quickly as possible. They and their families need it. They have needed it a long time. And they will need more, from all present indications. Not all the suffering is in Belgium, northern France, Rumania, Poland and Serbia.

Having cut off his retreat, the allies can now hoot von Hutier.

If you have something to sell that people need, it will sell just as readily in El Paso now as it ever did.

If Gen. Crowder ever lists book agents among the non essential occupations, there will be a loud shout of approval except from the agents.

From the farmers' viewpoint, president Wilson's veto of the \$2.40 wheat bill goes against the grain.

Austria to Germany: I asked for bread and ye gave me a generalissimo.

The six sons of emperor William are still hale and hearty, brilliantly uniformed, dapperly decorated, unscathed by war. Behind the German lines is the grave of a young Roosevelt. Another has an arm paralyzed by a wound. A third is in a hospital recovering from a wound. The fourth is fighting. See the difference between an autocracy and a democracy.

Germany has sent the camouflage detachment to the war office and put it to work on the communiques.

## When A Feller Needs A Friend - By Briggs



## Little Interviews

### Travelers' Aid Is Surprised At So Many Girls Unattended Predicts Three Pear Packers In The Valley, In Five Years

"SOMETIMES I think that the mothers of the country are all dead, or possibly on a journey, or perhaps asleep, from the number of young girls unattended I see day and night," said Mrs. I. M. Langston, of the Y. W. C. A., at the union station. "Young Miss Columbia seems to be taking care of herself these days, with doubtful results. Young women come here from all parts of the country at all times of day and night, looking for their husbands, brothers, sweethearts and friends, it being the first time many of them have ever been away from their country homes, and lots of them have about as much idea of the dangers awaiting them as moonshine has of merriment. As a rule they are bona fide; when not, it is usually patent on their faces. One in my position has all kinds of things to do in assisting women. Many of them seem absolutely lost when they arrive at the station, and are very thankful for what I do for them in helping them on their way. Sometimes it is an old, gray haired grandmother, and just as often it is a young girl of 18. It pleases me to be able to assist these soldiers and young women. It is a rare thing to do in assisting women."

## When Man And Wife Both Want A Bath On Saturday Night It Causes Trouble

Dear K. C. B.—In looking through the back pages of a directory I note that the abbreviation "K. C. B." stands for Knight Commander of the Bath. Recently also you have been solving domestic problems for your readers. Therefore, I would relate that on every warm Saturday night my wife likes to sit in the bathtub and read a book. I was brought up in a respectable family and on Saturday night is my bath night. As Knight Commander of the Bath you may be able to help me.

DEAR GEORGE:

TILL SATURDAY night, AND WHEN everything's ready, JUST HAND it to her, AND STICK around, NEAR THE bath room door, AND AFTER a while, YOU'LL HEAR her laughing, AND SHE'LL drop the book, AND GET excited, AND GO under the water, AND KEEP on laughing, AND BEGIN to choke, AND SOUND like she's drowning, AND YOU grab a rain coat, AND WHAP it around her, AND PUT her to bed, AND TAKE your bath, AND IF you don't like that, THERE'S AN old game, THAT WE used to play, WHEN WE were kids, AND IT'S like this, WHEN SHE'S in the tub, GO GET her clothes, AND TIE them all up, IN HARD knots, SO SHE'LL have to undo them, WITH HER teeth, AND IF you'll do that, FOR a couple of times, SHE'LL QUIT going in, WHEN YOU'RE around, I THANK YOU.

THE TROUBLE IS YOU MARRIED into a family, THAT WAS brought up, THE NAME as you were, AND HAD Saturday night, FOR ITS bath night, BUT NOW you've done it, ALL WE can do, IS MAKE the best of it, AND YOU tell me, SHE HAS a habit, OF READING a book, WHILE SHE'S in the tub, AND I want to tell you, ABOUT a book of mine, THAT'S BEEN a secret, BETWEEN THE publisher, AND A couple of book stores, AND MYSELF, AND IF you'll tell me, WHERE I can reach you, I'LL SEND you a copy, AND GEORGE, THE BOOK'S a scream, AND THE one that was sold, THE MAN who bought it, HE BROUGHT it back, HE JUST couldn't stand it, HE LAUGHED so much, AND I'LL send you one, AND YOU can hide it away,

when a soldier does anything without invitation, the young woman nearly always being to blame for what had better been left undone. This police have helped me a great deal in my work at the union station, and are in harmony with the movement to make the station an ideal place."

"In my section of the country people think of El Paso as a wild and woolly western town, and not as the up-to-date metropolitan city which I have found it to be," said Dr. John M. Watkins, of La Grulla, Ark. "I am surprised at the cleanliness of the city and the low death rate from typhoid and other infectious diseases. I am more than pleased with the progressive spirit in evidence here, and shall be glad to speak a good word for El Paso whenever I go."

"The mountains of New Mexico near El Paso are an ideal summer resort," remarked Miss Edna Strang, from east Texas. "The climate has been delightfully cool all the summer, and the scenery is very beautiful. People do not seem to know the mountains and the low death rate from typhoid and other infectious diseases. I am more than pleased with the progressive spirit in evidence here, and shall be glad to speak a good word for El Paso whenever I go."

"The army is particularly glad to receive through the El Paso Valley Guard organization, such as that organized now in El Paso," said Walter B. Rogers, district adjutant general of the El Paso Valley Guard. "The organization is a home town affair, and all the members are filled with enthusiasm. To attain the same spirit in drafted men requires months of time and substantial efforts and the like. In national guard companies, the army is saved this time and expense."

"The books and accounts of the city of El Paso were found by me to be in excellent shape," said auditor C. M. Grider. "Every account was traced and found properly entered and verified. I believe considerable credit is due to the various officers and employees whose duty it is to collect and account for city funds."

"We have a large pear packing plant at Tealta now, but in five years we will need three that size," said George Hendell, president of the El Paso Valley Bartlett Pear Association. "The pear industry is young yet in the valley, and when the young orchards come in, it will mean the bringing in of hundreds of thousands of dollars into the section annually. I belong to myself and J. Smith with it, and when they come in, and as for marketing our crops, we are making the most of it, including even South American points as prospective customers."

"I don't believe there is a city in the United States with a greater percentage of patriotic citizens than El Paso," said H. P. Hudfield. "The letters sent out by the Kilmorie club to motorists asking for contributions."

REDIRECTING FOR DEFENSE. The organization committee of the county council for defense is holding daily meetings at headquarters, Room 18, Hotel Sheldon. It is redistributing the city, and at an early date will call a meeting of the council of the districts.

Names In The News. Sector—is a geometrical term which is used to describe the certain portions of the front line to avoid confusion with the word section. A sector consists of accessory defenses behind which is the first line of surveillance occupied by a few men. Behind these are a line of resistance, strongly occupied, and lines of support. All are connected by communication trenches and protected by barbed wire defenses.

EL PASO HERALD. DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL NOT THRIVE UNOPPOSED.

H. D. Slater, editor and controlling power, has directed The Herald for 20 years. J. C. Wilmarth is Manager, and G. W. Martin is News Editor.

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## Letters To The Herald

FOR THE "SKIP-STOP." Editor El Paso Herald: Why not have the street car company put an even and odd cars, stopping at every corner, the odd cars skipping the corners, the even cars stopping on every corner? Everybody would then have a chance to catch a car that would stop on the corner most convenient for them, without having to walk a block.

This system is used in Kansas City and is very satisfactory. The even and odd cars would soon learn which car stopped at their corner.

Mrs. C. P. R.

CIGARETTES. Editor El Paso Herald: Cigarettes by billions smoked to old T. G.—Headline. This appeared in one of our daily papers about a month ago. Again in the last Literary Digest we read a very trenchant article on "Tobacco and Pugnacity in the Army."

"As in the recent campaign, it was claimed that the best people of El Paso voted for Cobb. Now, I say, the best people of this good old U. S. are against the cigarette. And the churches have gone on record against it. The medical profession has gone on record against it. The school teachers have gone on record against it. Now if these are not 'the best people,' then I don't know who are. If these haven't the good of humanity, especially our young men and boys, at heart, then I don't know who has."

On the other side The Tobacco Trust is for it—home and host, tooth and nail, and why? Because they are making millions out of it. Why should the good of humanity, especially our young men and boys, at heart, then I don't know who has."

RAIN STOPS SERVICES. A hard, short rain, accompanied by wind, prevented the Sunday evening auction collection services on Cleveland square. Little rain fell in the east and of the city.

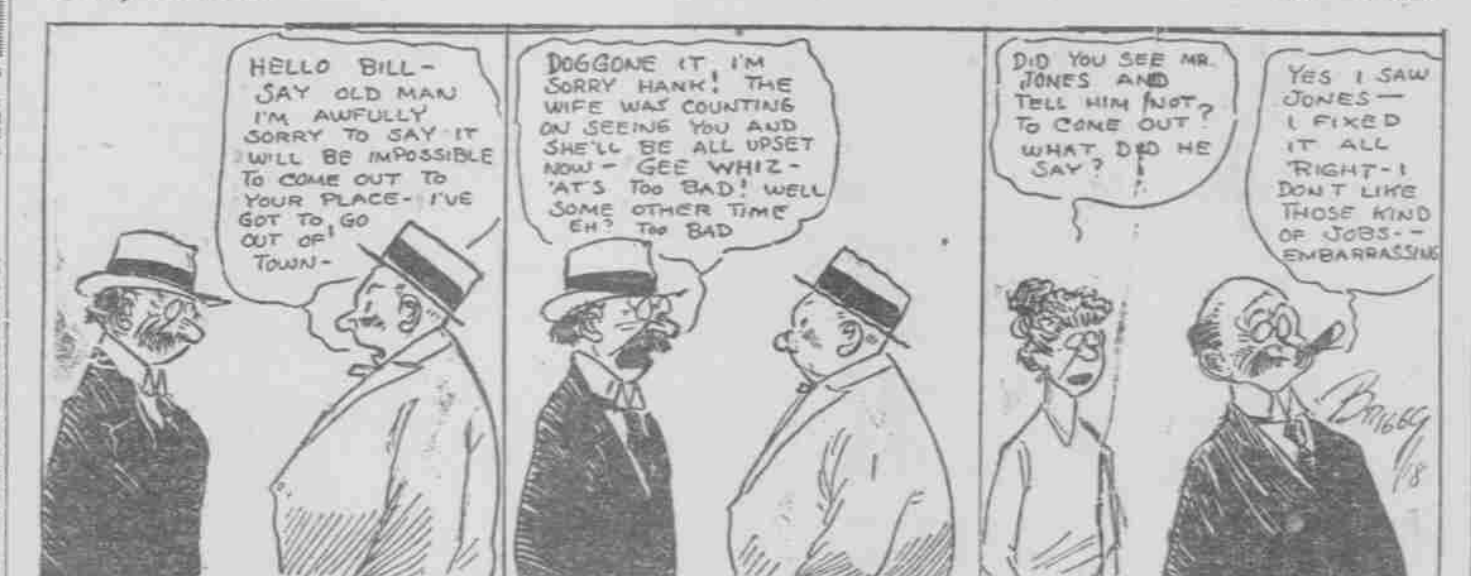
Uncle Wall's Denatured Poem.

Going Dry

THIS land of ours is going dry, the grogshops close their swinging doors, and soon the man who wants old rye will have to swim to foreign shores. John Barleycorn has met his fate, he's being pushed clear off the map; and we must learn to celebrate with sparkling water from the tap. There is no ginmill in the vale, there are no ginmills on the hills; dry people call for Adam's ale, and fill themselves with bubbling rila. The workman buys a house and lot with money that he used to blow for brimming bowls of liquid rye, that filled his head and soul with woe. Tired, the laborer lies up sparkling brooks, instead of seeking gilded halls, and has some coin to spend for books, and pictures for the parlor walls. The young man hits the village pond, when thirst has given him the blues; and then he buys a U. S. bond, which is a better thing than booze. The war has killed the Demon Rum, has been a bear and deadly frost; and men will say, in years to come, the war was worth whatever it cost. The ginmill shuts its latticed doors, the red robed patrons don't crowd in; the jeweled barkeep no more pours rainwater in the keg of gin. The thirsty man thinks not of beer, but to the nearest hydrant tramps, and quaffs a flagon bright and clear, then buys himself war savings stamps.

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## Oh, Man!



## MARRIED LIFE



## By Knoll

